

Appl. No. 10/665,949
Atty. Docket No. 9365Q
Amdt. dated August 14, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 17, 2006
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification, as follows.

Please replace the paragraph, which begins on page 12, line 17 and ends on page 13, line 4, with the following paragraph, which includes marked changes:

One step in preparing the chassis 22 for the subsequent creation of an edge fold 60 is "activation" (also referred to as incremental stretching) of at least a portion of longitudinal edge 50. Incremental stretching methods and suitable incrementally stretched materials are described in commonly assigned U.S. Patent 5,167,897 issued to Weber et al. on December 1, 1992; U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/897,823 and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/179,696. An activated or incrementally stretched laminate (e.g., laminate having an elastomeric material layered between two nonelastomeric materials) is formed with the non-elastomeric material in a substantially relaxed, i.e., non-stretched state. The laminate is then incrementally stretched, resulting in the non-elastomeric material being strained beyond its elastic limit and in the creation of plastically deformed areas of the non-elastomeric material, which areas generally remain laminated with the elastomeric material. In some embodiments, the laminate can be incrementally stretched to the elastic limit of the elastomeric material. In the finished incrementally stretched laminate in a relaxed state, the cumulative bulk of the non-elastomeric material may be substantially no more than that of the original laminate prior to its being incrementally stretched. Thus, both the maximum elastic extension and the elastic extensibility of an incrementally stretched laminate may be significantly greater than those of a conventionally gathered structure. Activation may be used to create stretch properties in the material. Activation may also be used to create high and low density portions in the material, whereupon the contraction of incorporated elastics forms substantially uniform gathers ("uniform" defined herein as having a specific, repeatable or consistent appearance). In most instances, the pitch of the gathers is determined by the distance between the tips of the teeth on the activation tooling (see Figs. 9-11). Various and varied pitch dimensions may be used so long as the gathers appear to be substantially uniform.

Appl. No. 10/665,949
Atty. Docket No. 9365Q
Amdt. dated August 14, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 17, 2006
Customer No. 27752

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 19-24 with the following paragraph, which includes marked changes:

Referring to FIGS. 7a-8a (diapers 600, 700, respectively), activated portions 63 are created on a non-formed chassis (herein defined as a chassis not yet having attached or defined side panels 30, e.g., material web not yet cut or shaped). Activated portions 63 may be formed inboard to longitudinal edge 50 in an area which will later serve to be the leg opening 25. Activated portions 63 may preferably be created in the ~~machine~~ cross direction, wherein, the elongation of said activated portions allows additional stretch in the machine direction.